

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 are in the application; claims 1, 5, 10, and 13 were previously presented; claims 2 - 4, 6 - 9, 11, 12, and 14 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof; and claim 15 is canceled. Claims 1, 5, 10, and 13 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added to the application as a result of the amendments submitted herewith.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1 – 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ryan et al. U.S. Publication No. 2004/0215793. This rejection is traversed.

The pending Office Action maintains the rejection of claims 1 – 14 based on the alleged disclosure of Ryan. The Office Action states that Ryan discloses outputting an indication of one or more disconnects between the identified person and the one or more other persons wherein the disconnect indicates a separation in time regarding the link associating the identified person with the one or more other persons. In particular, the Office Action states that paragraph [0106] of Ryan discloses the “dotted line shows time separation between individuals, in other words, the user and the other persons did not speak in a long time or never spoke, wherein those actions are associated with time separation.”

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's characterization of Ryan since Ryan discloses, as a matter of fact,

[0102] According to a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a means of visually displaying the interconnections between the nodes.

[0103] Preferably, a user's unique, private personal network may be visually represented on an electronic display in one or more of the

following forms, including:

[0104] graphical, alphanumeric and/or animated symbols representing nodes joined by lines, or some form of visual link representing the connections between the nodes;

[0105] a solid line indicating entities who have joined or have consented to join the user's unique, private personal network;

[0106] dotted lines indicating entities who have been invited but they have not joined the user's unique, private personal network; (emphasis added)

Therefore, contrary to the Office Action's statements regarding the Ryan disclosure, it is clear that Ryan discloses (including the specific portions cited and relied upon by the Office) visually displaying *interconnects* by *dotted lines indicating entities who have been invited but they have not joined the user's unique, private personal network*. That is, Ryan's dotted lines specifically refer to "interconnects" and not the claimed disconnects. Further, even though Ryan discloses "if two nodes exist independently in the database system or a unique, private personal network with no intermediate nodes connecting, they are said to be "disconnected" (Ryan, paragraph 72) there is no disclosure or even a suggestion that the mentioned "disconnects" are visually indicated by a dotted line. Again, Ryan specifically discloses and teaches an interconnect specifically and visually illustrated by a dotted line to indicate entities have been invited but not joined a user's private, personal network.

Ryan does not disclose or suggest any time limitation or consideration regarding the "dotted lines indicating entities who have been invited but they have not joined the user's unique, private personal network". Ryan specifically and only (i.e., merely) states that the entities visually linked by a dotted have not joined, without reference to or dependence on a time frame or separation in time. Unlike the example provided in Applicant's Specification where a "disconnect" is provided to illustrate a relationship between two members belong to a board of directors but at separate and distinct different times, the Ryan disclosed dotted line scenario specifically indicates "entities who have been invited but they have not joined the user's unique, private personal

network". Clearly, there is no time separation aspect disclosed by the cited and relied upon Ryan.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Ryan fails to anticipate independent claims 1, 5, 10, and 13 under 35 USC 102(e) since Ryan does not disclose each and every claimed aspect as configured in the claims, as is required for sustaining a rejection under 35 USC 102(e). Claims 2 – 4, 6 – 9, 11, 12, and 14 depend from claims 1, 5, 10, and 13. Therefore, Applicant submits that all of claims 1 – 14 are patentable over Ryan under 35 USC 102(e).

Applicant thus requests the reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 – 14, as well as the allowance of same.

C O N C L U S I O N

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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